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Way back in 1690 or thereabouts when the small children of the pilgrim fathers were studying their ABC's, they used that quaint old textbook, now famous, called "The New England Primer." And one of the first sentences they learned in that old primer was this: "My book and heart shall never part."

A splendid motto, I think, for small boys and girls to learn early and remember through life. There weren't any child phychologists back in those days to offer a scientific helping hand in guiding children, but, nevertheless, the author of that book knew a thing or two about the value of good reading for children. The more the modern educators learn about children, the more they believe that habits of good reading formed early help boys and girls to become happy, successful and useful citizens. Through books they can enter the world of fact and imagination. Through books their questions are answered. Through books they acquire a background on which to build a happy and successful life.

. These are some of the reasons why thousands of cities this week are celebrating Children's Book Week. The idea for this national week originated with a few far-sighted librarians only a few years ago.

"Give the children a chance at the books they need, "they urged. "Help them help themselves by good reading."

The idea was taken up by teachers throughout the country and book publishers cooperated. Whereever people are interested in better conditions for their communities, this annual celebrations has been welcomed because of the service it gives to the younger generation. This one big week stimulates in the children—and incidentally, in their parents— a permanent, year—round interest in books.

Would you like to hear what has been done in different parts of the country to give children opportunities through books?

In Indianapolis the public library has made a specialty of helping children learn about different vocations. The librarian suggests interesting books on engineering, aviation, moving picture industry, electricity and so forth to the mechanically minded boy. The girl who is interested in crafts, for example, or some of the many fields open to women today can learn about her



future profession during her leisure hours in the library. An Indianapolis boy, who, at the age of six or so, began staging pin shows in his garage for the neighborhood children, developed an interest in the mechanics of motion pictures. Recently at the age of fifteen he gave a professional performance to the American Chemical Society which was meeting in his city. This boy chose the library way to his vocation, supplementing his school studies by reading books supplied by the library.

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Public libraries in several cities have organized very successful children's round-the-world tours in which the young travelers read their way from country to country. On these so-called tours the library issues tickets, listing a book oppositie each country. The librarian punches the ticket as each book is read and the country passed through.

In one section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, vacation reading clubs have become very popular. More than 15,000 children in grades from the fifth to the junior high in 22 schools have enrolled. The young reader giving the best report on his vacation reading receives a free copy of some especially fine book.

The special celebrations during book week include plays, contests, and pageants founded on books. In Waseca, Minnesota, last year the Civic Improvement League, which had been active for several years in raising funds for the school library, sponsored book week. Children competed for prizes for the best book poster and book marks as well as the best scenes from books they had read. Then, 200 children took part in playlets, pantomines, and book cheracter parades, working out the costumes and character for their favorite book hero themselves.

This year special emphasis is being put on books to develop international friendliness among children-travel books, legends and folklore from other lands or any other reading that will help make the young generation in this country understand their neighbors.

Mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, and everyone else interested in the right books for children at different ages will be interested in the lists prepared by the American Library Association. There is a list of new children's books and another list of gifts for the children's bookshelves. These will help any grown-up who is wondering what book to buy Junior for Christmas or a birthday this year. And, by the way, a book may give either Jane or Junior a lot more permanent happiness then a box of candy or an expensive toy, and will cost no more.

Another interesting selection of books was made for the rural school on the Rapidan River in Virginia which President and Mrs. Hoover have been interested in. Their Rapidan River list suggests a suitable small, well-selected library for children of school age.

Did I hear someone ask about books for parents? I thought so, Of course, the library association hasn't forgotten parents. It has a fine list for them of books on child care and training called "The Parents' Bookshelf."

Have you a pencil handy? Would you like to take down the name and address of the association putting out these lists?

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The American Library Association, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Yes, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The public library in your town will also be glad to advise you about the right books for children.

I guess you and I had better be thinking about dinner now. My watch only allows me a few more minutes to talk about the menu.

Somebody asked me the other day for a corned beef and cabbage dinner. I'm going to answer that request today. A lot of us sympathize with Dinty Moore in "Bringing Up Father" on this matter of corned beef and cabbage. It may be a humble dish but it is a good one. And nowadays, when we are thinking pretty frequently about cutting down the cost of living and budgeting our food, it pays to feature a corned beef dinner now and then.

The menu for today, then, is an inexpensive dinner. It begins with Corned beef hash; then, boiled cabbage; then, Scalloped tomatoes; and for dessert, Hot gingerbread with sweet cider, served either hot, cold or spiced.

There is an excellent recipe for commed beef hash in the green cookbook, page 15.

As for the cabbage, be sure you boil that only until just tender, no longer. Save all the vitamins you can in this healthful vegetable.

Now are you ready for the recipe for hot spiced cider?

Ingredients? Six.

1 quart of sweet cider
1/4 cup of sugar
1/8 teaspoon of salt
I'll list those again. (Repeat.)

8 short pieces of stick cinnemon 12 whole cloves

8 whole allspice

How do you prepare this hot drink? Mix all the ingredients, bring them to the boiling point, cool and stand for several hours. Then reheat and remove the whole spices. Serve the cider hot with sandwiches or cookies.

This is a nice fall beverage to serve at either afternoon or evening parties.

Tomorrow I have some news for you from the Food and Drug experts, on Food Flavors.

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